

Gold King Mine Release Situation Report

11 August 2015, 1800 hrs. (all dates & time Pacific Daylight Time unless otherwise indicated)

SitReps for the Gold King Mine Release on situational status and updates relative to the previous day's report. For background and previous activities please refer to EPA's website for the incident - https://www.epaosc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=11108

EPA Region 8 Activities

Region 8 has been coordinating with Region 6 and Region 9 and the states of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and the Southern Ute Tribe. Region 6 is working closely with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) to evaluate possible impacts in New Mexico. Potentially impacted water systems have been notified and precautions are in place to ensure drinking water in homes is protected. Colorado officials are requiring all watercraft off the river, and other authorities are following suit. EPA and NMED are providing assistance to community water systems and closely monitoring the situation.

Region 8 Site information, maps and sampling data are all available at:
http://www.epaosc.org/site/site_profile.aspx?site_id=11082. Please request a password to view the geospatial viewer for an interactive map accessed through the webpage.

EPA Region 9 Activities

EPA Emergency response has established an Incident Command Post in Farmington, New Mexico, for field operations. EPA has deployed two OSCs and the START and ERRS contractor to assist with sampling and distribution of alternative drinking water respectively. Actions taken include:

- 1) Coordination of Ag/Livestock water needs,
- 2) Sampling for Surface Water and Sediment at the 11 locations on the San Juan River
- 3) Coordination with other Tribal, Federal, and State agencies.

Two additional OSCs will mobilize 8/12 to the ICP as additional sampling teams are deployed for surface water and sediment sampling. Boat operations are planned for these activities later in the week.

Current EPA Staffing: Please see attached ICS 207 organizational chart. We have expanded operations of the regional REOC, having activated personnel to assist with Planning, Finance, and Resources.

Other Federal Agency Actions: Monitoring is being conducted by several agencies including US Geological Survey (USGS), Utah Division of Water Quality (UDWQ), and the USGS Utah Water Science Center. The UDWQ has a crew at the state-line with a pH meter waiting for the plume. They estimate that the plume will arrive between 3:00pm and midnight tonight (assuming a travel time from Kirtland of 1.4 of 3 mph). They plan to collect samples through Friday.

The Bureau of Reclamation is not yet performing sampling, but has increased water releases from the Navajo Reservoir in attempt to maintain a target base flow through the endangered fish critical habitat. They are planning to sample Lake Powell with USGS in the near future.

The AZDEQ is planning to take samples tomorrow from two locations: Glen Canyon Dam intake and the Lee's Ferry Boat ramp (water plant intake). They plan to copy the same suite of analytical that we have been using in the Animus River.

The National Park Service (USPS) has also issued a news release for the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area dated 8/7/15 (see attachment).

Media Interest: High